

The Foundation for Investor Education sponsors a nationwide InvestWrite essay competition for students who participate in The Stock Market Game. The background and assignment for this year's competition are described below. Students must write their own essays and document any sources they used for information.

**To submit an essay:**

- Essays must be **at least 500 words** and **may not exceed 850 words**
- Any rough drafts should be typed and e-mailed to **mhall@buckleycountryday.com**
- Final drafts must be e-mailed by the end of the day on **Wednesday, December 4, 2013**

InvestWrite Topic For Grades 6-8, Fall 2013

Background: Research is important when choosing investments (stocks, bonds, and mutual funds). It is important to find out as much as you can about a stock, bond, or mutual fund before buying it. There are many tools available in print and on the Internet (see list below). Numerous websites, newspapers, magazines, annual reports, and blogs are available. Research can include information about finances, revenue, company outlook, products, competition and more.

Essay: Imagine a group of adults from the community are coming to your school. They will be there to hear student presentations on research and analysis for the SIFMA Stock Market Game. Your analysis will be based on your 10 year savings goal. Your essay is the presentation you will create and present. Choose any two of the following: stocks, bonds, mutual funds or cash (or any combination). Outline in your essay the information you researched about these holdings. Identify where you located the information: the charts, graphs, articles and websites you used to make your decision.

- Describe your 10 year investment goal, what you are saving for and why.
- Explain why you selected the securities. (Choose specific companies, bonds or funds)
- Summarize the information you found.
- Describe why you think each of them would be good investments and defend your reasoning.
- Express to the audience why you think the research tools were useful.
- Include footnotes and a list of specific references and websites you used.

NOTE: Your essay should be interesting and keep the attention of the adults. *Your essay is in written form only. You will be describing your research tools, not inserting them in your essay. You cannot add charts graphs to your essay.*

Research Tools

- **Basic charts** – *identify* stock price over time (1 month, 5 years or more)
- **Interactive charts** – *compare* companies to other companies
- **News Articles and Headlines** – *report* and *evaluate* the latest news articles on your favorite companies
- **Industry Analysis** – *compare* companies in the same industry, or compare industry to industry
- **Financials** – *summarize* revenue, profit, and long-term debt over time
- **Annual Reports** – *explain* the future of the company, perhaps even *state* future development projects
- **Videos**
 - CNBC has several online venues including *Mad Money* and short videos about investing, company news and stock and bond analysis
 - Yahoo - short videos about investing, company news, stock and bond analysis
- **Blogs**
 - CNBC - current company news coupled with analysis from experts in the field

Final Due Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Judges will base their decisions on the author's understanding of the subject matter, rationale, and writing style. For more information about the judging criteria, visit <http://www.investwrite.info/judging.aspx>

For more information about the topic, please refer to the new resources on the Stock Market Game website. For any research that you do, cite your sources using the format in the "Buckley Style Guide."

Don't Forget: ** Include a catchy title! **Cite your sources at the bottom!